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MONTANA LABOR MARKET 1961

Monthly Review of EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

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FL-214.



DECEMBER, 1960

Variety of Economic Forces Prevalent On Winter Labor Market Scene

Seasonal Trends Reduce Employment In November

Industrial employment in Montana was 168,600 wage earners as of November 15 according to estimates compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This was 2,900 below the October employment level and 7,100 above that of November a year ago. The decrease from last month measures the extent to which annual seasonal employment diminished during the period. The increase from a year ago reflects the growth in number of persons in employment. The figures this year are deceptive because comparisons are with a strike affected 1959. Approximately 5,500 workers were eliminated from the November, 1959 total because of the metal mining strike in progress at that time. Discounting this unnatural economic element, industrial employment for both years remains about the same for each November.

Seasonal Declines Less This Year

The October to November seasonal employment decline this year was less than for the comparable periods of the past five years. Seasonal factors removed only 2,900 workers from industrial payrolls this year, against 4,100 last year. The October-November employment shrinkage was 3,000 in 1958, 4,200 in both 1957 and 1956, and 3,600 in 1955. Better weather conditions, more major construction projects, and other active outdoor activities were chiefly responsible for keeping more employed longer this year.

Of the eight major industrial groups which comprise the Montana economy, six showed employment declines from October, while two groups kept even. The major decrease

was in the highly seasonal construction industry, down 1,200 workers. Project completions, rather than weather factors, were responsible in some instances. Other declines from last month were in manufacturing and government, down 500 each; the trade and service industries, down 300 each; and transportation and utilities, down 100. Employment in mining and in finance, insurance and real estate remained the same as in the October totals. Most of these down shifts in employment accord with seasonal experiences of the past years.

Long-Range Trends Mixed

Comparison of figures over the period of a full year provide a glimpse of trends having long-range economic significance. Trade and service industries are normally barometers of economic prosperity and re-flect the growth of stability of primary industries. There were 700 fewer workers on trade industry payrolls this November than last. Service industries recorded a moderate increase of 100 workers. Normally, trade employment expands during the late fall months in preparation for the holiday shopping season. Although holiday hiring was fairly good in most major cities, plans for increased payrolls did not materialize in some other areas. In some cases better merchandising methods and self-service have eliminated the need for extra workers. Consumer purchases of durable goods are down from a year ago, particularly in some farm

The Construction Outlook

Favorable weather for outdoor work during October and November has been a factor in maintaining employment levels and deferring the annual layoffs which result in

high winter unemployment. As a result, construction payrolls were 1,900 above a year ago. They will shift naturally downward as the weather worsens. But the big backlog of major construction projects awaiting the start of the next construction season will be a strong employment force on the labor market scene in the months ahead.

A Look at Lumbering and Mining

The lumber industry has been reducing employment all through the late full months. Many of the plants now operating will shut down when the severe cold weather comes. The slump in lumber and plywood production accounts for part of the slack in the state's economy. Present indications do not reflect improvement for the coming winter months, and much of the unemployment this winter will be in the lumber industry.

Too much capacity and not enough demand characterizes the current situation in most of the important metals and minerals. Copper stock piles are at a two-year high despite the lengthy strike last year. Markets have been relatively quiet despite a drop in prices. Mining employment has not yet declined appreciably, but some adjustments in working forces may be necessary unless the present conditions change.

Fiscal 1960 Wages High

Employers subject to the Montana Unemployment Compensation Law paid \$458,-471,219 in gross wages to an average of 108,602 insured workers during fiscal 1960. This was slightly over 8 million dollars more than wages paid during fiscal 1959. Wages paid to Yellowstone County workers totaled \$76,096,413, followed by Cascade County with \$56,993,211, and Silver Bow County with \$43,229,938.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

		AC	CESSI	ON RA	TE		SEPARATION RATE								
INDUSTRY	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	1)Oct 1960	2)Sep 1960	Oct, 1959	Oct. 1960	Sept. 1960	Oct. 1959	Oct. 1960	Sept. 1960	Oct. 1959	Oct. 1960	Sept. 1960	Oct. 1959	Oct. 1960	Sept. 1960	Oct. 1959
3) All Manufacturing Durable Goods Primary Metal	2.9 3.1 4.0 2.7	3.0 3.7 2.3 1.7	4) 4) 4) 2.2	2.3 2.1 1.1 2.6	2.5 3.0 .6 1.4	4) 4) 4) 2.1	3.9 4.0 3.5 3.6	7.6 9.6 12.0 3.7	4) 4) 4) 2.9	1.4 1.6 .0 2.0	3.7 3.5 3.5 2.0	4) 4) 4) 1.4	1.6 1.7 .7 1.4	2.4 2.9 4.1 1.4	4) 4) 4) 1.3
All Mining Metal Mining	2.8 3.4	8.0 7.6	4) 4)	.9 .9	3.5 1.5	4)	3.6 3.6		4) 4)	1.0 1.1	3.1 2.7	4) 4)	3.2	.3	4)

Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time. 2) Figures previously revised on more complete returns

Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations. Excludes sugar and canning industries.

⁴⁾ Data not available due to strike in metal mining and primary metals a year ago.

Along the Hiring Line—Field Summary, Dec. 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(157 jobseekeis, 233 new, 77 men, 80 women). Industry and farm activities both down seasonally from October. Area construction projects slowed by weather conditions or closed completely. Retail establishments report business slow with no appreciable employment increase for holiday trade planned. Moderate biring at smelter for replacement purposes only. No immediate labor shortages expected.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(2,002 jobseekers, 718 new, 1,258 men, 744 women). Construction employment totals in gradual decline with some project completions and other winter shutdowns. Work on variety of commercial and home building units still in progress. Moderate activity at Yellowtail Dam site near Hardin on preliminary stages of site development, access roads, etc. Bids for construction of camp facilities scheduled for letting Dec. 15, 1960. Area employment in mining, railroads and oil activities at moderate levels. Good hiring trends in trade and service industries and extra post office workers for the holiday season. Agricultural hiring below normal.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(429 jobseekers, 184 new, 290 men, 139 women). Downturn in job prospects laid to unsettled lumber markets and reduced volume in trade industries. State college building program chief construction activity. Two new stores scheduled to open in shopping center plaza soon. Construction of tale processing mill in Three Forks area near completion. Farm hiring light.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,254 jobseekers, 374 new, 782 men, 472 women). Air of optimism prevalent as economy moves toward recovery after metal mining strike. Some business establishments engaged in remodeling projects. One-third million dollar remodeling and expansion project planned at brewery. Fire-damaged meat plant scheduled for rebuilding. All outside construction projects suspended for winter. Good employment opportunities for clerical, sales and skilled workers during October. Farm hiring patterns normal, but little demand for live-stock feeders.

CUT BANK- (229 jobseekers, 126 new, 167 men, 62 women). Labor market patterns show good trends after elimination of seasonal factors. Lavorable weather kept good levels of employment in construction and oil field work. Some normal declines in these fields expected through December. Main street business at normal levels. Farm activity limited to general maintenance and repair projects.

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment—	Nov.	Oct.	Nov.	Nov. Avg.
	1960	1960	1959	1952-60
Industrial Employment	168,600	171,500	161,500	163,600
New Job Applicants	5.187	4,678	5,728	4,297
Job Applicants, End of Month	14,487	9,469	17,740	9,558
Insured Unemployment, Week of	Dec. 9 1960	Nov. 11 1960	Dec. 5 1959	Avg. 1st Dec. Wk. 1956-60
New and Renewal Claims	2,217	1,582	1,821	1,944
Unemployed Weeks Filed	9,326	4,524	10,702	7,984
Total Unemployment Claims	11,543	6,106	12,523	9,929

DILLON—(201 jobseekers, 95 new, 133 men, 68 women). Mild weather held livestock feeding to a minimum, reducing job prospects. Most farm work included fencing and general farm chores. Miscellaneous building projects in various stages of construction; work continues as weather permits. Skeleton crews working on re-location of railroad tracks near Clark Canyon Dam site. Trade and service volume up with influx of workers.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(575 jobseekers, 179 new, 415 men, 160 women). Decline in construction activity large ly responsible for most idle as crews trimmed at completed military and civilian projects. Cold weather took its toll at others. Civil service hiring at airbase limited during November, but applications taken for skilled and clerical workers for future job openings. Farm hiring normal.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(225 jobseekers, 92 new 174 men, 51 women). Poor farm crops, lack of moisture and fewer farm hires combined to present a dismal agricultural picture. Industry hiring also below last year's level. Night shifts eliminated at some service establishments. One cafe forced to close for lack of business. Job prospects dwindling as winter season advances, but spring job outlook forecasts good.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(2,691 jobseckers, 837 new 2,344 men, 347 women). Increased hiring in trade industries highlights the October labor market picture. Good weather for most of the month allowed construction to continue. Start of construction on missile complex scheduled for January barring unforseen delays. Farm work mostly in shape of general maintenance, and building and equipment repairs. Area labor supply adequate to meet most current needs.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(366 jobseekers, 107 new, 263 men, 103 women). Seasonal workers make up the bulk of unemployed, but heavy applications also noted from idled lumber and sawnill workers. Forest service crews pared for winter months. Only limited hiring in trade indus-

tries prior to holiday season. Farm labor demand mostly for short-time help.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem — (437 jobseekers, 184 new, 341 men, 96 women). Job hires in industry and agriculture below last month and a year ago. Very little or no extra hiring planned by main street establishments during the holiday season. Cold and snow halted most construction projects until next spring. Farm hiring prospects below normal.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(766 jobseekers, 255 new, 470 men, 296 women). Work progressing on several major construction projects including highway inter change, state office building, retail store and college additions. No new starts of note during October. Trade and service industries recovering from temporary November lag. Farm labor demand slow.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,436 jobseekers, 359 new, 1,035 men, 401 women). Labor market patterns weakening as winter advances. End of Xmas tree harvest idled 300 workers; closed construction projects furloughed 125 more. Working forces at trade establishments cut to minimum with some on short work weeks. Business failures included a grocery store and a used car sales organization. Farm labor demand down sharply with completion of fall harvests.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnet—(300 jobseekers, 115 new, 280 men, 20 women). Job placements higher than year ago but down seasonally from last month. Trade industries led the November hiring line, followed by contract construction and private households. Start of construction on missile bases in area should stimulate local economy. No worker shortages evident at the present time.

LIVINGSTON, Big Fimber (543 jobseckets, 104 new, 378 men, 165 women). A 50% drop in job placements from a year ago laid directly to depressed lumber conditions and closure of a major mill. Main street stores have reduced working forces and the majority plan no large scale hiring

MINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)*

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	Jun∈	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Avei
1952	1424	1423	144.6	151.1	156.6	162.7	162.9	164.5	163.0	100.2	157.8	156.2	155.3
1953	1.47.1	14.9	147.9	151.5	155.2	161.0	162.2	1641	163.2	162.2	150.0	157.9	1.56.5
1954	1.1	1.17 6	1.19 1	153.4	158 O	164.1	166.6	167.8	157 I	156.1	160.3	158.0	137.2
1971	1500	149.0	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170 6	172.9	171.7	168.3	1647	1627	162.1
1151	1566	1514	1503	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	1740	170.4	1007	1686
1950	110	()	116	161.3	1661	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	1500	1 148
9 -	1711	1103	15005	156.1	162.4	167.1	170.2	1723	1700	168.8	1058	162.4	1c2.4
1959	1.5	183	155.0	162.2	167.5	1740	177.5	179.2	160.0	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
176,61	15 17	1725	1761	163.4	167.9	175.2	176.3	176.3	174.8	171.5	168.6**		

^{*}I small of the College of the former complete and accurate figures for industry segments not covered under the Unemployment As mall of Programs — *Programs — *Pr

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary, Dec. 1

during the holiday season. One grocery store closed during the month. No date set for start of construction of new shopping center. New city sewage disposal plant 30% completed with little hiring.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(261 jobseekers, 104 new, 205 men. 56 women). Lahor market complexion fairly good with improving trends in the trade industries. Some planned construction projects postponed until spring but good progress on current ones. Some idled construction workers leaving for other areas. Farm labor demand reduced as livestock growers cutting herds because of serious water shortages.

MISSOULA, Arlee, Drummond, Superior -(1,059 jobseekers, 497 new, 695 men, 364 women). Employment in lumbering and logging fluctuated throughout the month in response to changing climatic and economic conditions. A definite downtrend was exhibited at month's end. Worker layoffs common at both large and small mills and plants. Close of sugar refining campaign idled 200 workers. Completion of one highway project and winter suspension of another idled 125. Normal seasonal cutbacks evident in service industries.

POLSON—(355 jobseekers, 140 new, 296 men, 59 women). Depressed lumber activity chiefly responsible for current job downturn. One major mill on four-day week; other plants eliminating one shift of workers. Early end of Christmas tree harvest idled others. No large building or highway projects currently active in area.

SHELBY—(347 jobseekers, 157 new, 248 men, 99 women). Trade industries and the public utilities group were main hiring forces during November. Hiring down in railroad and transportation units. Construction activity limited with most projects closed for winter. Holiday hiring of extra workers slow but expected to gain momentum in December. Farm hiring above last year.

SIDNEY-(211 jobseekers, 146 new, 162 men, 49 women). Most construction workers employed through November on a variety of commercial and industrial building projects. Prospects for 1961 work season appear good with increased construction volume predicted. Main street volume in sales of both durable and non-durable goods not up to expectations. Sugar refining campaign to end Jan. 5, 1961. Farm hiring below last vear.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs-(228 jobseekers, 63 new, 191 men. 37 women). Seasonal layoffs in construction, lumbering, sawmill work and forest service accounted for majority of new jobscekers. Newly automated sawmills continue to cause further worker layoffs. Survey work on power line continues with demand for chainmen. Bids for new Noxon school to be called for in December.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey-(415 jobseekers, 118 new, 347 men, 68 women). Seasonal employment drops most evident in construction and agriculture during November, and to a lesser degree in the trade and service industries. Cafes, hotels, implement firms adjusting working forces to winter levels. Oil field activity remains a potent economic force with 5 wells drilling and 6 seismograph crews active.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	EM	PLOYME	VT.	Net C	hange
INDUSTRY	Nov. 1960 (2)	Oct. 1960 (3)	Nov. 1959	Oct. '60 to Nov. '60	Nov. '59 to Nov. '60
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	168,600	171,500	161,500	2,900	7,100
Manufacturing	20,800	21,300	18,900	500	1,900
Durable goods	12,700	12,900	10,600	_ 200	2,100
Lumber and timber products Primary metals Other (4)	7,400 3,800 1,500	3,800	7,700 1,400 1,500	00	2,400
Nondurable goods	8,100	8,400	8,300	_ 300	200
Food and kindred productsPrinting and publishingPetroleum refiningOther (5)	5,000 1,600 900 600	1,600 900	5,000 1,700 900 700	00 00	— 100 00
Mining Metal mining Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic Petroleum-natural gas production		4,800 800	5,300 2,100 800 2,400	00 00	2,700 00
Contract Construction	12,700 5,500 2,700 4,500	5,900 3,500	10,800 4,400 2,400 4,000	800	1,100 300
Transportation and utilities	18,400 8,600 3,900 5,900	8,600 3,900	19,200 9,200 4,000 6,000	00 00	- 100
Trade Wholesale trade Retail trade General merchandise and apparel Food stores Eating and drinking establishments Automotive and filling stations Retail trade not elsewhere classified	8,700 31,800 6,200 4,900 7,300	8,700 32,100 6,200 4,800 7,600 6,800	41,200 9,100 32,100 6,100 5,100 7,300 6,600 7,000	- 300 00 100 - 300 00	- 400 - 300 100 - 200 200
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,900	6,900	6,600	00	300
Services and miscellaneous	2,600	2,600 2,200	2,600 2,100	00	0t 100
Government Federal State and local	39,400 9,500 29,900	9,700		 	400
Great Falls Area (Cascade County	3,000 1,700 2,100 5,700 4,000	3,000 1,700 2,100 5,700 4,100	5,700 4,100	00 00 00 00 00 100	1,100 00 00 00 100

Statewide employment estimates revised on the basis of more complete reports. Industry detail for the period January, 1959 to date, will be supplied in a future supplement to this publication.

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.
- (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 710 selected Montana establishments. (3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,065 such establishments.
- (4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay
- (5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.
- (6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.
- (7) Same as (6) above, also includes finance, real estate and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN NOV. 1960 AND NOV. 1959

Employment	Nev	v Job A	Applica	ints	Job	seekct	s in F	ile	1		J	ob Pla	cement				UI C	aims*
Service	Nov.	1960	Nov.	1959	Nov.	1960	Nov.	1959		Nov.	1960			Nov.	1959		Wk.	2-9
Office	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1960	1959
Anaconda	23.3	24	9.3	27	157	30	1.395	794	14	11	25	,	g)	11		223	1.177
Billings	718	155	862	224	2,002	490	1.978	708		108	600	179	590	99	689	258	1.747	
Bozeman	184	46	191	4.3	429	105	508	112	139	29	168	38	154	39	193	76	273	169
Butte	374	70	269	74	1,254	271	3,164	793	98	10	108	45	49	15	64	20	875	2,360
Cut Bank	126	.37	141	48	220	73	386	138	47	1.5	62	25	44	34	78	22	195	
Dillon	9,5	28	98	31	201	4.3	222	67	30	50	80.	.31	28	54	82	36	149	140
Glasgow .	170	4.5	175	57	575	163	502	163	105	1.5	120	.38	153	1.5	168	83	558	483
Glendive	U	26	1.38	44	225	57	246	70	7.2	1.3	85	30	94	21	115	37	232	133
Great Falls	837	2.3.5	862	224	2,691	50.5	2,478	869	.301	5.5	356	99	407	80	487	142	1,187	1.535
Hamilton	107	.3.2	112	38	366	93	359	118	30	36	66	14,	35	07	102	2.3	356	302
Havie	184	52	268	77	437	133	485	155	102.	22	124	48	150	56	206.	83	467	344
Helena	255	50	325	112	766	181	897	313		4	97	31	244	17	. 261	143	543	566
Kalispell	350	70	385	108	1,436	359	-1,662	486	110	4	114	35,	179	17	196	51	1,415	1,177
Lewistown	115	.31	96	40	300	92	267	93	57	22	79	40	. 56	20	76	34	168	178
Livingston	104	21	109	20	543	133	317	64	25	2	27	6	75	4	79	39	469	250
Miles City	104	14	176	44	261	47	275	80	66	33	99	39	57.	38		21	309	210
Missoula	497	86	879	310		220				21	245	79	270	39	00.	139	973	861
Polson	140	21	108	30,	355	122	325	101	33	17	50	17	134	31	165	51	368	255
Shelby	1.57	45	147	55	347	85	265	122	59	23;	82	35	7.5	- 4	79	30	273	
Sidney	146	49	76	17	211	59	182	40	61	26	87	27	52	58	110	32	172	133
Thomp. Falls	6.3	12	. 78	21	228	61	231	69	24"		25	8	34	3	37	14	222	217
Wolf Point	148	30	140	32	415	113	355	99	22	11	33	10	20	11	31	1.3	369	305
TOTALS	5,187	1,206	5,728	1,675	14,487	3,435	17,740	5,842	2,204	528	2,732	876	2,909	724	3,633	1,347	11,543	12,523

^{*}Include 381 claims of the Federal UC Program 367 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics) (Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

	Average	Weekly 1	Earnings	Аустав	e Weekly	Hours	Average Hourly Earnin		
INDUSTRY	Nov. (1) 1960	Oct. (2) 1960	Nov. 1959	Nov. (1) 1960	Oct. (2) 1960	Nov. 1959	Nov. (1) 1960		
All Manufacturing	\$ 98.33	\$ 98.57	\$ 92.83	40.3	40.9	38.2	2.44	2.41	2.43
Durable goods	94.38 97.50	95.74 95.55	90,02	39,0 39,0 39,0	39.4 39.0	37.2 3)	2.42 2.50	2.43 2.45	2.42
Nondurable goods	100.78 88.77	99,48 89,65	96,23 84.05	 40,8 43,3	41.8 44.6	39,6 41.0	2.47 2.05	2.38 2.01	2.43 2.05
All Mining	101.52	105.85	105.88	39.5	40.4	41.2	2.57	2.62	2.57
Metal mining	102.43	102.43	3)	38.8	38.8	3)	2.64	2.64	3)
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	99.69	96.12	100.11	[l '				
Transportation (except railroads) Utilities and communication	108.02 93.56	103,34	115.37 90.39	40,5	38,6	40.9	2.31	2.34	2.21

⁽¹⁾ Preliminary estimates—(2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.—(3) Data not available due to strike in metal mining a year ago.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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